THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given a judgement in Civil Appeal No. 529 of 2002 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 6643) regarding Constitutional validity of amended Section 25-O of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in the case of M/s Orissa Textile and Steel Ltd. Vs. State of Orissa and others alongwith 12 other cases.

The Apex Court has held that the amended Section 25-O provides for an inquiry after an opportunity of being heard to the employer, workmen and all interested persons, and provides that the order is to be reasoned in writing.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 was amended by Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982 (46 of 1982). This Act was enforced w.e.f. 21.8.1984. The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of Section 25-O. This judgement has no impact on the disinvestment plans at present.

Licences to the Manpower Export Agencies

2010. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued to the manpower export agencies in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether Government have received a large number of complaints against these agencies of taking away passports work permits etc. from the persons who are sent abroad by these agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government against these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Registration Certificates (Licences) were issued to 260 agents for recruitment of Indian citizens abroad on contractual basis, under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, during the last two years.

(b) to (d) Complaints about taking away of passports, work permits, delayed/non-payment of wages, payments of wages less than

what was initially offered, non availability of adequate facilities of accommodation and food etc. in respect of the persons sent abroad by the registered recruiting agents, are received normally against the foreign employer/sponsor. As and when such complaints are brought to the notice of the Government, Indian Missions/local registered recruiting agents are requested/directed to settle the matter with the help of concerned Government/Sponsors. If the recruiting agents do not comply with the directions of the Government, action is taken to suspend/cancel the registration certificates of the recruiting agents. Foreign employers who violate the terms of the employment are placed in "Prior Approval Category" (Black List). On the recommendations of the Indian Missions abroad, during 2000, 11 foreign employers were placed in the PAC, while 13 foreign employers were placed in PAC during 2001.

Action Plan to Safeguard Workers' Interest

†2011. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to retrench labourers to bring down their numbers throughout the country under the pressure of foreign capitalists;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to safeguard interests of the labourers; and

(c) what action plan Government have formulated keeping in view the forthcoming hardships of the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is committed to safeguarding the legitimate interest of workers in the emerging economic environment. In keeping with this, the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of the Central Public Sector Undertaking has been further modified to provide greater protection to the workers. Moreover, a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.